

Groundbreaking begins new era of medical care

"We're very excited about this. A lot of prayer went into the decision to build." These were the opening remarks made by County Commissioner Alton Moon at Monday's groundbreaking ceremonies for the addition to Duchesne County Hospital.

Ted Weiner, vice-president of BBC Health Care, said, "Today really is the beginning of the new facility." After the comments by Commissioner Moon and Mr. Weiner, Alva Snow spoke about the history of the hospital and its importance to the community.

"In my opinion, when people are really interested in a community there are several things which attract them," said Snow. He pointed out that schools, City services, churches, all attract people to a community. "Not least among these are the medical services," said Mr. Snow.

On the dawn of new medical services in Duchesne County, Snow reminded those in attendance that, "At the time this building (the existing facility) was constructed it was one of the finest of its kind."

The groundbreaking for the existing hospital was held in the spring of 1968. He explained that in March, 1966, plans had been made to remodel the old hospital, in use since 1944. However, the LDS Church owned and operated the hospital and it was at this time that they wanted to get out of the hospital business. It was decided that others should be brought in to look at the possibilities of constructing a facility. The hospital was looked at by several members of the County Commission, and shortly thereafter Duchesne County residents passed a bond for \$250,000. They also received \$250,000 in matching funds from Hill-Burton.

An additional \$308,000 was received for Indian Health Care Services. According to Snow, this money had been appropriated for construction in Alaska, but the project was stopped so the money was re-channelled to the Duchesne County facility.

Also, the LDS Church informed the County that if they would bond for the construction of a new hospital, the LDS Church would give everything in the old hospital, such as equipment and accounts receivable as well as bank accounts, to the new hospital. Mr. Snow expressed the advantages of this type of co-opera-